The Mat-Su Monitor

Volume 1 Issue 4 The Student Newspaper of Mat-Su College, Palmer, Alaska February 7, 1994

THE DAYS ARE GETTING LONGER, IT MUST BE SPRING SEMESTER !

The Monitor welcomes all students to spring semester 1994! Only six years to go to the end of the century and the millenium, or seven, depending on how you want to count it. Purists insist that 2000 should be counted as the *last* year of the decade, even as 10 is the tenth number in 1, 2, 3, etc.

Be that as it may or may not, while the math folks duke it out, we are enjoying a taste of breakup and liking it a lot. And Rondy and the Iditarod are just around the corner, so on to Nome and Summer!

? DECADE

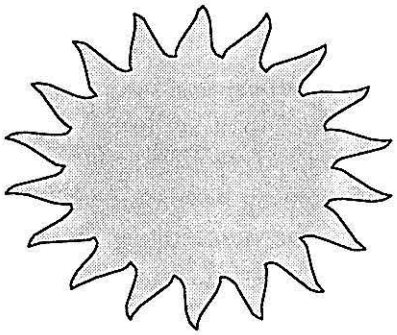
Speaking of the future, what are we to call the next decade? Almost a hundred years ago, the date was pronounced "nineteen ought two." So, if this decade is the "Nineties," wouldn't it be logical to name the next one the "Oughties"? Or if we must be modern, the "Andies."

We wonder if in six years, we will be calling the new year "twenty ought ought." Sounds like a shotgun.

MOVING RIGHT ALONG!

The new building is now about 55% completed. The contractors say they are right on schedule.

With the entranceway and walls up and roofed, the building has taken on a pleasing air of solidity.



A QUIVER RUNS THROUGH IT

The thirtieth aniversary of the 64 quake in Alaska occurs in just a few weeks. Our Big One registered 8.5 on the Richter Scale or 9.2 on the Moment Magnitude Scale.

By comparison, the recent Big Enough One in Los Angeles measured in at about 6.6 on the Richter Scale.

Paul Whitmore of the Alaska Tsunami Warning Center in Palmer says that the California quake activity is not related to anything in this area and is not necessarily indicative of another major event occuring soon here.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DEGREE

An important informational meeting will be held on campus concerning this new degree on Tuesday, February 15 at 7:00 pm in JKB Room 124.

This is a **new** Bachelor of Science degree being offered at Mat-Su College through the University of Fairbanks. For more information, please call 745-9774.

VALENTINE'S DAY BBQ

Student Government will hold a free barbeque for students on February 14th from 2:00 to 7:00 pm. The barbeque will be in the MSC cafeteria, which will be closed for ordinary business during those hours.

THAT NIGHT AFTER FINALS

by Mark Ewing

The weather was a balmy 34 degrees above zero. The moon was shining in all its glory. In the background, fresh snow glistened. The First Annual Christmas Ball on the 17th of December at the Lake Lucille Best Western was a night to be remembered for Mat-Su College students who used their free tickets on what I officially, collegiately proclaimed to be the longest day of the year (the last day of the semester for most.)

The Lake View Room was the setting for the climax of 1993's Student Government Activities Committee schedule. It...

Was the night after finals,
When all through the lodge,

see FINALS page 3

OPINION

WHERE IS THE STUDENT INVOLVEMENT?

by Mark Ewing

Late in 1992, *two days* before the college Christmas dance, the members of Student Government posted a notice regarding the up and coming dance. Two days was not enough time for many to plan for child care in order to attend the dance. I was upset that poor planning and lack of advertising had caused many students not to attend the activity. It was then I chose to make my concerns known to the members of the Mat-Su Student Government Council. I was amazed to learn that a campus this size lacked a student forum to keep students abreast of ongoing developments.

When my position was relayed to the then current members of your Student Government, the task of recreating the Mat-Su Monitor was assigned to myself, with Chris Colberg as my assistant. We crudely tried to hammer out a newsletter that would inform as well as entertain. As a result, this college now has a monthly newspaper. The major problem we faced then is the same one we have now -- lack of student involvement.

This summer, one of the main goals we had was to overcome the hurdles surrounding the purchase of a decent publishing program. In September, we found a truly dedicated lady who has helped to form this publication into the type of newspaper that we all can be proud of. As many know, this very giving person is Carolyn Long.

In the past few months, we have tried everything we could think of to create stimuli with hopes of generating student involvement, but we've had little or no success. Sure, we can all use the excuse that we haven't got the time due to either our home life or school. I find it to be a totally unacceptable attitude to say you really don't care. As a single parent, editor of the college newspaper, self-employed carpenter, President of Student Government, and a full time student, I still find time to serve on the University's Task Force for Tuition and Student Fees.

I really believe a college this size should have a student run information source. Don't you? It's been proven that 3% of the population make the decisions for the other 97%. In the year that I've worked on this paper, this statistic makes itself apparent each time we publish.

I want to thank the handful of students that have taken thirty minutes to contribute to the Monitor's success. We want to thank all of you. But the time has come for me to step aside and let fate run its course. It's up to you to keep the student voice alive.

STAFF MEMBERS OF THE MAT-SU MONITOR

Carolyn E. Long--Editor
Michelle McGehee--Staff Secretary
Bette Belanger, Mark Ewing--Guest Columnists
Jim Ernstsen--ASHRAE Reporter

The Mat-Su Monitor welcomes letters to the editor as well as guest columnists. Please see personel in the Student Government Office for more information or drop material in our mail box at the College or mail to PO Box 2889, Palmer, Ak., 99645.

FINALS

the roads were so slick
I got stuck in my Dodge.
The decorations were hung by the band-
stand with care (thanks to Alice Orth,
Wade Roberts, and David Orlando),
in hopes that the students soon would be
there.
Most of the faculty was nestled all snug
in their beds,
while visions of test scores still danced
in their heads.
The ladies came dressed in the finest of
gowns,
guys mostly in suit coats as they
paraded around.
When out on the lake there arose such a
clatter,
I sprang from my table to see what was
the matter.
Then what to my wondering eyes did
appear,
but an open sleigh and two horses, oh
dear,
along with two drivers and one had a
stick,
I knew then it must be a trick.
Two dollars the fare for a trip round the
lake,
the ride was so splended two trips did
I make.
Now Massay, now Van Loon, now Butler
and Powell;
there was Vera from Snodgrass and C.D.,
pray tell.
Mrs. Fallon couldn't make it, her husband
wasn' t well.
From the top of the porch, Theron Bair
videod it all.
Now dance away, snack away, talk away
all.
The band was from Anchorage, the music
was trick,
the food was consumed in a lickety-split.
And in a twinkling I heard dancing on the
floor
and Gyspy had a rhinestone in her
fingernail you had to adore.
Out in the hallway, David Jones worked
without spite,
"Your ticket or ten dollars; if not, then
goodnight!"
Student Government awarded two
plaques like they do,
one to Doc Massay, one to Van Loon.
With the DJ the sounds were truly a
delight, *see FINALS page 8*

LITERARY ITEMS

Inklings, the UAA undergraduate literary magazine, is currently accepting submissions for the Fall 94 issue. Undergraduate students from any of the UAA branches, including MSC, are eligible.

The types of works Inklings wants are poetry, short stories, and personal essays, although there is a 5,000 word limit.

Submissions may be placed in the Inklings mailbox in Room 222M, Building K at UAA. The deadline is March 15, 1994.

For more information, please call the editor, Kevin McLain , at 786-4916 or contact the English Department at UAA.

AND THE WINNER IS...

The poetry editor wishes to congratulate MSC student Judy (sorry, we've lost your last name) for being the first to correctly identify T. S. Eliot's mystery poem as *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock.* Thanks to all those who submitted answers.

NEW CONTEST

Who wrote the following poem?

As the cat
climbed over
the top of

the jamcloset
first the right
forefoot

carefully
then the hind
stepped down
into the pit of
the empty
flowerpot

The first student to correctly identify the poet will win a nifty prize from the literary staff.

HAIKU

Dark of winter night,
a golden sun the mind sees...
the will to go on.

This haiku was written by David Orlando, an engineering student at MSC.

JOKE

A lady joined the fan club of a famous crooner noted for his rendition of "White Christmas" and sent away for some glossy, eight by ten colored photographs of the singer. After she got them and looked them over, she exploded in righteous indignation and screamed "They're so ugly!"

She promptly sent the pictures back with an angry note which stated she wanted her money back because the photos were *an unbearable likeness of Bing.*

LIBRARY SHOWCASE REVIEW

by C. E. Long

The exhibition of photographs in the Mat-Su Library showcase is by Karen Markie Hancock. Karen is a graduate of UAA with degrees in journalism and biological sciences. She studied photography with Jim Frei at MSC.

The pictures were taken during a trip she and her husband, a Viet Nam vet, made to Viet Nam in May, 1993. They traveled from Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) to Hanoi with a hired driver and interpreter.

The fourteen black and white photographs are all relatively small, with none over eight by ten inches, but are adequate technically to convey the artist's message.

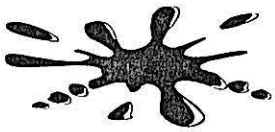
To a Westerner, the pictures would be interesting even if not labled, which they are, because of the exotic subject matter. The pigs' ears for sale in the street market would quite startle most of us. But because they are about Viet Nam, they take on an intensity of meaning which transcends mere oddity.

The information they present to an adult who lived through the war era is fascinating. It is good to review both good and bad aspects of the past and to realize that those are real people leading real lives over there.

And it is somehow comforting to know that once again, human beings are making a concerted effort to recover from a terrible devastation, and that they are succeeding.

LIBRARY HOURS

Monday--Thursday	8:30--10:00 pm
Friday	8:30--7:00 pm
Saturday	9:00--3:00 pm



3-D STUDENTS GET AROUND

Students from fall semester's three dimensional design class at MSC recently had a showing of their best works at the Stonington Gallery in Anchorage.

The show, "Out of Africa, Out of India, Out of Mat-Su...?," ran from January 17 through February 5 and consisted of various types of boxes constructed during the class.

Students represented were Bonnie Adams, Edward Gagnon, Carolyn E. Long, Karin Moell, Gail Moses, Janet Stuart, as well as course professor, David Edlefson.

Some of the different design themes were Self-Portraits, Portable Pharmacies, Box of Wishes, and Peace Train.

$19,000 TO SPEND...

by C. E. Long

Yes, fellow students, ***19,000 dollars.*** That is what your student government has available to spend the rest of this fiscal year. Sounds good, doesn't it? But wait, there's more. Stop and think a minute. Where did all this money come from? It came from the depths of your pocket, via the activity fee that you are forced to pay every semester.

Student government is going to spend about ***$1000.00*** on the February barbeque, almost ***$4000.00*** to send six students to Juneau this month for the Leadership Conference. There are plans in the works to make the editorship of the student newspaper a paid position, with funds coming out of student government monies.

There may also be a paid position open on the staff of the paper for an advertising agent.

Is this how you want your money spent? If not, come to the Student Government meetings and make your views known!!!

MAT-SU STUDENTS ATTEND ASHRAE CONVENTION

by Jim Ernstsen

Jim Baize and Karl Romig, second year students in MSC's Refrigeration and Heating program, were able to attend ASHRAE's (American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers) International Winter Convention in New Orleans, January 22 through 26, thanks to Alaska ASHRAE chapter and Mat-Su Student Government.

During the Anchorage ASHRAE meeting on January 20, ASHRAE president Keith Reed presented Jim and Karl with round trip airline tickets to the convention. Jim Ernstsen then presented two $515.00 checks to Jim and Karl on behalf of Mat- Su Student Government to cover lodging, food, and the registration fee for the convention.

YOU *CAN* QUIT SMOKING

*By **Bette Belanger** (MSC Staff and Adjunct Faculty Member)*

I would like to respond to Shirley Hendrix, whose "Smoking or Non-Smoking" essay appeared in the last issue of the Mat-Su Monitor.

First, I would like to say that I *am* sympathetic to the dilemma of being addicted to tobacco and the difficulty of overcoming this addiction. I agree that for some people quitting smoking is a great deal more difficult than it is for others. However, I get the feeling from reading your commentary that your continuing to smoke is not a matter of conscious choice, but an undeniable dependency that you would give up in a minute if it were that simple.

As to the "rights" of smokers, I must differ. There is no compromise between the issue of smokers' right vs. nonsmokers' rights. If, as you say, people have a right to breathe smoke-free air, then where is the compromise to be? Smoke-free air is exactly that, smoke-free. You say you are allergic to perfumes, incense, candles, and such. Indeed many people are allergic to such materials as well as pollen and hay and an abundance of other natural substances. I'm sure most of us can name some irritant that causes us discomfort. However irritating it may be, there is probably no scientific data confirming that these irritants are cancer causing substances, whereas there is substantial data on cigarettes.

The fact that a good portion of what you pay for a pack of cigarettes goes toward taxes should *encourage* you to quit smoking and put the money you save toward something beneficial (perhaps a membership to a health club.) The persecution you are feeling from nonsmokers may be real to some extent, but I suspect you may also be feeling some discontentment in yourself, because really, you would like to kick your habit.

Back to the compromise issue--you say all you want is a place to smoke in comfort without being treated like an animal. At whose expense should you be provided a warm, comfortable room with tables and chairs? This room would need to be totally enclosed, of course, not in some corner where your smoke can permeate throughout the building. Wouldn't it be nice if there were a surplus of rooms on campus just waiting to be put to such worthy use? Please keep in mind that the no smoking rule is not merely a campus rule, but is mandated by the University of Alaska as well as Alaska statute.

My question to you is this--why in the world do you continue a habit that is expensive, dirty, umcomfortable to do in inclement weather, makes you feel victimized, and most of all is deadly? You *can* quit smoking. If you need help, get it; no one said it is easy, but please, don't make excuses for yourself.

LUNCHEON WITH THE RED CHINA

The GEO club is sponsoring a noon luncheon (pot luck) slide show on February 8, in Room 124. The featured speaker will be Sandy Estelle, of the MSC biology department. Her presentation will be on her trip to China last summer.

The meeting is free and open to the public.

GEO club is planing its annual MSC International Day in April.

Regular meetings of the club are the last Tuesday of the month at noon in Room 124.

Pat Joppi, advisor for GEO, advises that the March pot luck lecture will be about Indonesia.

LOST, LOST, LOST

Reward of $20.00 offered for return of an HP 42S calculator lost in the main MSC parking lot on January 31. Please see Walt in the ET lab for more details.

GRADUATION APS DUE MARCH 2

Al Okeson, counselor at MSC, reminds all students wishing to graduate this coming May that their applications for graduation for Associate degrees, Certificates, and High School Diplomas are due by March 2. Please see one of the counselors to process the paperwork.

Also due are applications for graduating with bachelor's degrees. Applications for these four-year degrees must be submitted to the UAA Ad-Min offices even if students wish to "walk" at MSC. There is a $20.00 graduation application fee.

Grads who want to attend the ceremonies at MSC must advise the MSC Ad-Min folks by March 2.

Mr. Okeson wishes students obtaining four-year degrees to understand that even if they go to graduation here in the Valley, that their diplomas will state the degree was received from UAA.

ONE CREDIT CLASSES STILL AVAILABLE

There is still time to sign up for the following one credit classes at Mat-Su College for the Spring 1994 semester!!

AWS 190	Log Cabin Construction	Sat	10:00-12:45 pm	3/26-4/23
CIOS 113B	Introduction to Windows	Sat	1:15-- 4:00 pm	2/26-4/02
CIOS 211A	Advanced Lotus in DOS*	Mon	12:00-- 2:45 pm	2/21-3/28
CIOS 221A	Advanced Lotus Macros in DOS*	Mon	12:00-2:45 pm	4/04-5/02
CIOS 213A	Advanced MS-DOS	T/Th	5:30- 6:45 pm	2/22-3/31
CIOS 213A	Advanced MS-DOS	Wed	9:00- 11:45 am	2/23-3/30
CIOS 215D	Advanced WordPerfect in DOS*	M/W	5:30- 6:45 pm	2/21-3/30
CIOS 215D	Advanced WordPerfect in DOS *using version 5.1**	Th	7:00- 9:45 pm	2/24-3/31
CIOS 223A	Advanced MS-DOS Topics*	T/Th	5:30- 6:45 pm	4/05-5/05
CIOS 223A	Advanced MS-DOS Topics*	Wed	9:00-11:45 am	4/06-5/04
CIOS 225D	Advanced WordPerfect Topics*	M/W	5:30- 6:45 pm	4/04-5/04
CIOS 225D	Advanced WordPerfect Topics in DOS with Desktop Publishing *using version 5.1*	Th	7:00- 9:45 pm	4/07-5/05
SWK 490F	Mid-Life Crisis	Sat	9:00-4:00 pm	3/26 & 4/02
SWK 490W	Adoption and After	Sat	9:00-4:00 pm	4/16 & 4/23

* Instructor permission is required to enroll in advanced classes.

Financial Aid Reminder: If you are planning to attend Mat-Su college in the Fall 1994 Semester, NOW is the time to begin the application process for financial aid. For information call 745-9719 or stop by the college to pick up financial aid application forms.

JANUARY ART SHOW

by C. E. Long

The January art show in the Mat-Su College atrium, "Essence of Place and Ecclesiastical Weaving," features the work of valley resident and former MSC student, Susan Remele. The exhibit runs from January 22 through February 15 and is open to the public.

Susan received her Bachelor's of Fine Arts from UAA in 1992. Her emphasis was photography, with a minor in fiber. She uses both of these disciplines in the show: photography for "Essence of Place" and woven stoles for "Ecclesiastical Weaving."

The twelve colored photographs, although unlabled, all appear to be of European buildings, with both interior and exterior views. In the lengthy artist's statement which accompanies the show, Ms. Remele introduces the photographs by noting that "Man's history is revealed when the details of a place are observed."

She argues that the "Essence of Place" is determined not only by the original builders of a particular structure, but also by the manner in which the succeeding generations have maintained or preserved it. The choices that the present day owners make reveal the importance that these owners place on their "ancestors' values."

There are no human figures in the pictures. They are presented as calm portraits of various buildings, as if the artist is inviting the viewer to determine his own sense of place without much bias from the photographer.

Although the photographs are well done technically, they suffer from poor lighting and from not having non-reflective glass. This adds to the general air of darkness that pervades the show. My interpretation of these buildings as based on the material shown here is that Europe, if it be Europe, is a gloomy, somber place.

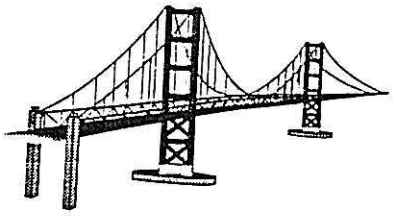
Even the most striking of the pictures, an interior that shows nested doorways and a gleaming parquet floor, is too painfully sculptural to be uplifting.

The three weavings in the show are all handwoven, lined, narrow stoles about seven feet long, with one each in purple, green, and white. The artist has handprinted Biblical verses in gold ink on white ribbons which she has sewn on each stole. In addition, she has embroidered religious symbols on the cloths.

Although she states that she has tried to express Christian concepts "without mimicking past expressions" and that she is trying to "communicate with the centuries-old language of symbols and fiber arts," I find the symbols, which consist of Greek looking letters, crosses, candles, and abstract angels, to be rather traditional.

I am not familiar with the particular Christian tradition that she is presenting here, but it appears that perhaps her new interpretation of an old visual exercise is the placement and juxtaposition of the symbols and letterings.

The stoles are well made and pleasing to the eye in regards to the colors and textures, but the overall design would have been less cluttered and more subtle without the ribbons.



BEST BRIDGE

Mat-Su student David Orlando and three others on a project team of fellow engineering students at UAA in Engineering 111, won first prize in the class bridge building contest in December. There were twelve groups competing in the contest.

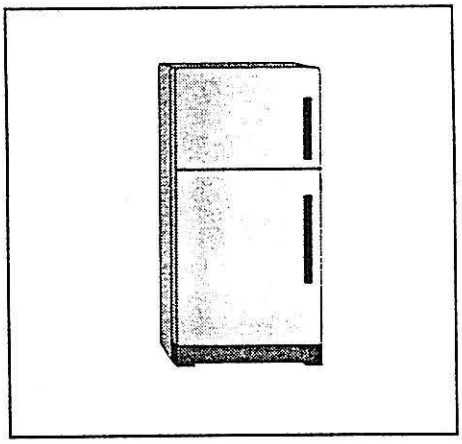
Their computer designed bridge was constructed of balsa wood and was sixty-three centimeters long. It weighed one hundred forty-four grams and withstood a maximum stress load of four hundred and ten pounds before breaking.

Engineering 111 is being offered at Mat-Su College this spring semester.

MAT-SU STUDENT WINS ART SCHOLARSHIP

Valley resident Joyce Reynolds, who is seeking a Bachelor's of Fine Art at the University of Alaska, Anchorage, was recently awarded the Saradel Ard Scholarship from the Art Department at UAA. The scholarship is based on exceptional ability and outstanding work accomplished, rather than on financial need. The scholarship is also weighted towards students who are undertaking a career change.

Art majors in the B.F.A or the B.A. program wishing to apply for the next scholarship should contact the Art Department at UAA to determine the deadline and be prepared to submit slides of work done as well as a biographical sketch.



A COOL DEAL

by Jim Ernstsen

The Refrigeration and Heating Department would like to announce that they are offering to repair refrigerators and freezers for a small donation to ASHRAE. We may also have some working refrigerators available for sale for a small donation.

Second year Refrigeration and Heating students will shortly be offering Furnace Efficiency Evaluations for a small donation.

Look for more information in the next issue of the Mat-Su Monitor or contact Dick Musser or Gary Kronquist at the college.

FINANCIAL AID NEWS

by Barb Carney

What's going on in the Financial Aid Office?

It's STILL NOT TOO LATE to apply for Pell Grant or Alaska State Student Loans for 1993-94, but the applications need to be sent in RIGHT AWAY! Deadline to apply for Alaska Student Loans is halfway through the spring Semester! It takes them about two months to process the loans.

Pell Grant paperwork [SARs, Gen. application, and other documentation (if required),] MUST BE CORRECT, and submitted to the Financial Aid Office at UAA by the first of May. The sooner sent in, the sooner the money comes!

For next year's financial aid (Fall 1994/Spring 1995)--the TIME IS NOW to apply! Pell Grant applications are here; Alaska State Educational Incentive Grant applications are in, too. (The EARLY BIRD gets THAT worm!).

Alaska State Student Loan applications for 1994-95 AREN'T HERE YET! They should be here around the 3rd week in February.

Barb will be on vacation from Feb 6th till the 28th. Loan and grant checks will be disbursed by the Business Office. If you have questions, or need help with applications, etc., see Toni or Hannah.

SENATORS NEEDED

The Student Government announces that there are several senator positions still open on the Council. Students may become senators by attending three consecutive meeetings.

Student Government is allowed one senator for every one hundred students registered in a given semester.

Mark Ewing, president of the Council, reminds students that meetings are open to all students and that the Council welcomes their comments and input on all issues.

If students are concerned about how their money is being spent, they should come to the meetings and get involved, he says.

See the Student Government bulletin board in the cafeteria for the next meeting time.

The president also stated that there is a distinct possibility of pizza being served at the next meeting.

Annual spring elections for new senators and officers for the 94-95 school year are coming up later this spring.

DEMOS

Thanks to all those art students who participated in the January registration drive art demonstrations!

FINALS

I could have stayed dancing all through the night.
Later, some of the students did sing,
even Tiffany, runner-up Miss Alaska,
was really something.
Then laying a finger aside of my nose,
my head started to nod, then a ride was proposed.
Cheryl (with a C) sprang up to the call with a whistle,
and away we drove like the down of a thistle.
But as I left, folks for miles heard me call,
"Thanks to all who helped make it a success,
and Merry Christmas to all."

NOTICES

Noonsingers meet at noon on Tuesday and Thursday in Room 108. All singers welcome to join in. Class credit available.

GEO club meets the last Tuesday of every month at noon in Room 124. In April, GEO will sponsor MSC International Day. There will be noon luncheons every second Tuesday of the month with a featured speaker in Room 124.

NOTICES

HUMAN SERVICES CLUB meets Feb 11 at noon in OLB Room 214. Come and learn to network in the work force.

ASHRAE meets first Thursday of every month in Room 124 at 6:00 pm.

ART club meets Feb 22 in the Art Room at noon. The upcoming workshop will be discussed.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT meets Feb 14 in Room 108. See bulletin board for time.

MATH CLUB meets Feb 11 at noon, most likely in the cafeteria.

SECURITY ESCORTS are available to the back parking lot at 9:45 pm.

STUDENTS NEEDED for Student Government graduation committee. See Michelle in Business Office for details.

MAT-SU MONITOR is looking for an editor for the 94-95 school year. This position may be a paid one. See Michelle or Carolyn for details.